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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR PM/WRA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: SA/LW NEGOTIATIONS ON MARKING AND TRACING

REF: SECSTATE 99866

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) Post delivered reftel demarche points to Deputy Director Shawn Barber in the Peacebuilding and Human Security Division (AGP) at Foreign Affairs on May 31. A copy was conveyed to the Ambassador Anton Thalmann as well.

2, (SBU) Barber provided the following response on June 2:

Begin text

Small Arms and Light Weapons Negotiations on Marking and Tracing

Ammunition

The Chair's draft currently includes ammunition. Including ammunition is an important step towards addressing the issue of SALW in conflict zones, particularly in areas in which SALW are re-circulated within the state. In these instances, access to ammunition plays the key role in prolonging the conflict. While Canada supports the inclusion of ammunition in the instrument we remain flexible with regards to how this is achieved.

Other Issues

Record-keeping: The Chair has ambitiously indicated that records should be kept for at least 30 years. While Canada can support this, it would be beneficial to indicate whether the entire record needs to be retained for this period.

Marking: We are in agreement that marking at import is an extremely important provision to include in the instrument. Canada would also propose to include the year of import to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of performing a trace.

The current draft requires more specificity with respect to the information required on both submitting and responding to tracing requests. Canada is working on a draft format for requesting and responding to traces (as required in the Technical Annex) based upon current policing systems used by Interpol.

The potential role to be played by Security Council authorized peacekeeping operations in initiating tracing requests or destroying weapons remains to be systematically worked out in the next round of discussions. Canada recognizes the important role peacekeeping operations have in conflict and post-conflict arenas and would like to see the ability of these missions to perform tracing requests.

End Game Options

Canada's objective throughout the negotiations has been to establish a legally binding instrument that encompasses both crime and conflict situations. We remain committed to achieving this objective which we judge to be shared by a majority of participating states. In this context it is important that the instrument be effective for "on-the-ground" use of police and peacekeeping operations.

End text.

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